

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In response to the Election/Restriction requirement in the Action dated June 28, 2007, Applicants provisionally elect with traverse Group 2 (claims 9-14).

Applicants respectfully submit that the Office has not established that the election/restriction requirement is proper. For example, claim 9 of Group 2 is a dependent claim which depends from claims 1 and 3, which are in Group 1. Thus Groups 1 and 2 are linked. A search of the elected claims 9-14 will include a search of all of the method steps recited in parent claims 1 and 3. It follows that the restriction requirement is improper because at least claims 1 and 3 should be grouped with elected claims 9-14.

In addition, claims 15 and 16 in Groups 3 and 4 depend from claim 13, which is in Group 2. Allowance of elected claim 13 will render dependent claims 15 and 16 potentially allowable. Further Applicants disagree with the assertion that claim 1 is anticipated or obvious. In the event parent claim 1 is allowable, the depended claims in Groups 1, 5, 6, and 7 are potentially allowable as well. Thus in the event any of the elected claims are allowed, the Office is respectfully reminded to consider Rejoinder under MPEP § 821.04.

Applicants respectfully submit that the dependencies of the claims across multiple Groups will require overlapping subject matter to be searched. It follows that there will be no undue burden in searching and examining all of the claims 1-20. Withdraw of the Restriction/Election requirement is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

The undersigned will be happy to discuss any aspect of the Application by telephone at the Examiner's convenience.

Respectfully submitted,

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